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**PATENT
KEL01 P-132**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stephen McCully, Christine Berry, Andrew Kain, and Paul Brown
Serial No. : 10/825,277
Filed : April 15, 2004
For : A MULTI PURPOSE APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I certify that the attached return postcard, Claim of Priority, and a certified copy of United Kingdom Patent Application No. 0308684.0 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
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on May 7, 2004.

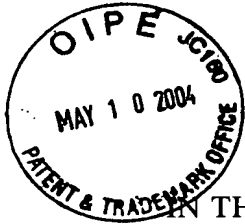
Catherine S. Collins
Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP
P.O. Box 888695
Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695
(616) 975-5500

CSC:lmse
Enclosures



100-100000

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Applicant hereby claims the priority benefits under the provisions of 35
U.S.C. 119, basing said claim of priority on United Kingdom patent Application No.
0308684.0, filed April 15, 2003.

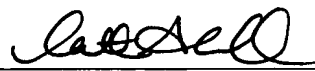
In accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 119 and 37 C.F.R. 1.55(a),
certified copies of the above listed United Kingdom patent application is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

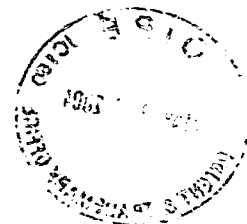
STEPHEN MCCULLY, CHRISTINE BERRY,
ANDREW KAIN, AND PAUL BROWN

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

Dated: May 7, 2004


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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
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South Wales
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

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Dated 8 April 2004



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Patent
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P01/7760 0.00-0308684.0

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

FB05881/MOC/TJ/pd

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0308684.0

15/4PR 2003

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

TEAL SAFETY LIMITED
P.O. Box 137
Ballymena, Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland BT43 6WA
United KingdomAKE LIMITED
Mortimer House
Holmer Road, Hereford
England HR4 9TA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

8611329001

8611345001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention "A Multi-Purpose Apparatus"

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(including the postcode)9 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1FY
Northern Ireland
United Kingdom

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7774417001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)Date of filing
(day / month / year)

NA

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

NA

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

YES

a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or

b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or

c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

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Claim(s)	0
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Priority documents	0
Translations of priority documents	0
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	0
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	0
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)	0
Any other documents (please specify)	0

11.

☒ We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Teal Safety Limited

Date

6/14/83

AKE Limited

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Tara Jennings - 028 9023 6000

Warning

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Patents Form 1/77

"A Multi-Purpose Apparatus"

The present invention relates to a multi-purpose apparatus.

5

During outdoor activities such as hiking, backpacking, cycling, hunting and the like, a participant generally carries along a sleeping bag for spending the night out of doors, and a tent to protect him or her from precipitation. Many such outdoor activities are carried out in remote areas. In the case of a participant becoming injured, the injured party may have to wait for hours for emergency services to arrive, often without any shelter from the potentially harsh weather conditions.

15

In order to cater for both sleeping arrangements and the possibility of an emergency situation, the participant tends to carry a number of separate items, such as a sleeping bag, tent and emergency apparatus. However, in order to avoid being laden down with such numerous items, the participant often brings the minimum possible with him or her, essentially putting himself or herself at risk.

25

It is an object of this invention to provide a simple, compact item that may be used as a multi-purpose apparatus.

30 According to the present invention, there is provided a multi-purpose apparatus in the form of a sleeping bag

comprising two or more fasteners, wherein the two or more fasteners enable the bag to be mounted to a support, and wherein the bag is openable to a substantially planar state.

5

Preferably, when the bag is in the planar state, at least some of the two or more fasteners are disposed along the periphery of the bag.

10 Further preferably, some of the fasteners are in the form of loops, wherein the loops can be used as handles. More preferably, the loops are adapted to receive, in use, an elongate member which, in use, supports the bag.

15

Optionally, the bag, when in the planar state, includes a fold line disposed substantially centrally thereon. Preferably, at least some of the fasteners are provided along the fold line.

20

As used herein, the term "fastener" means any suitable fastening means, including hooks, loops, clips, clasps, buckles, snap-fit fasteners, Velcro (Trade Mark), zip fasteners and the like.

25

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

30 Figure 1 is a plan view of a multi-purpose apparatus of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the

apparatus being in the form of a sleeping bag in a substantially planar state, the bag including a first section and a second section connected along a fold line;

5

Figure 2 is a plan view of the bag in a state wherein the bag forms an enclosure for receiving a body therein, wherein the second section has been folded under the first section;

10

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the bag, in use, showing a schematic view of a user located within the enclosure formed by the first and second sections;

15

Figure 4 is a view of the bag of Figure 2, wherein fasteners provided along the periphery of the second section are used to support the bag manually when the bag is used as a stretcher;

20

Figure 5 shows elongate poles being inserted through the fasteners of Figure 4, wherein the poles are used to support the bag when the bag is used as a stretcher;

25

Figure 6 is a plan view of the underside of Figure 5, wherein the poles of Figure 5 are shown in a different position, namely inserted through straps present on the second section, to support the bag when the bag is used as a stretcher;

30

Figure 7 is a side elevation of the apparatus being used as a hammock; and

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the apparatus being used as a tent.

5 Referring now to the accompanying drawings, there is illustrated a multi-purpose apparatus in the form of a sleeping bag 10, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The bag 10 preferably comprises a flexible sheet which is rectangular in plan in its
10 unfolded, substantially planar state. The bag 10 is adaptable for use as a blanket, stretcher, hammock, shelter, tent, distress signal and the like, as will be described hereinafter.

15 Referring now to Figure 1, the bag 10 is shown in an unfolded state. The bag 10 preferably comprises a first substantially rectangular section 14 connected to a second substantially rectangular section 16 along a fold line 18. Each of the first and second sections
20 14, 16 comprises an obverse side 15, 17 and a reverse side 19, 21. The reverse sides 19, 21 are indicated by dotted lines in figures 1 and 3, for example.

A plurality of fasteners in the form of clips 20 is
25 provided in spaced relation along the periphery of the bag 10, and along the fold line 18 on the obverse side of the bag 10. Each of the clips 20 is preferably provided with an eyelet (not shown) formed integrally therewith.

30

A plurality of fasteners in the form of loops 22 is also provided along the periphery of the second section 16. The loops 22 are preferably arranged so as to form oppositely disposed pairs of loops around the periphery of the obverse side 17 of the second section 16. Each loop 22 of a pair of loops is preferably connected to the other loop 22 by means of an elongate strap 24 associated with the obverse side 17. As shown in Figure 1, the straps 24 are preferably provided in substantially parallel spaced relation, transverse to the longitudinal axis of the second section 16.

In use, the bag 10 is adaptable for a variety of uses. Referring again to Figure 1, the apparatus 10 is shown, in use, in its unfolded state for use as a blanket or the like.

Referring now to Figure 2, the bag 10 is shown folded approximately in half along the fold line 18 for use as a sleeping bag. In this state, the bag 10 has been folded along the fold line 18 to form an enclosure for receiving a body therein. The bag 10 is closed on three sides in a conventional manner by means of suitably positioned clips 20. The obverse sides, 15, 17 preferably comprise brightly coloured and/or reflective material. The obverse sides 15, 17 together generally form the outer surface of the bag 10, in use, and therefore the material forming said obverse sides 15, 17 is also preferably breathable and waterproof. The reverse sides 19, 21 preferably form the inner surface of the bag 10, in use, and therefore the material

forming the reverse sides 19, 21 is preferably a thermally insulating material. The user 26 is therefore protected within the bag 10 from extreme temperatures ranging, for example, between +30°C and -30°C.

5

It will be appreciated that instead of spaced apart clips 20, the bag 10 may be provided with a substantially continuous zip fastener (not shown) around the periphery thereof.

10

Referring now to Figures 4, 5 and 6, the apparatus 10 is shown in the folded state of Figure 2, for use as a stretcher. Figures 4, 5 and 6 each show different methods by which the bag 10 can be mounted to a support 15 when the bag 10 is used as a stretcher.

In Figure 4, the support for the bag 10 is provided manually by a series of users hands 28. The hands 28 grip the loops 22, and the bag 10 may be carried as a 20 stretcher in this manner. It will be appreciated that an injured person (not shown) may be placed either on top of or within the bag 10. The bag 10 therefore has the advantage of being simultaneously used as a sleeping bag and as a stretcher, i.e. as an integral 25 sleeping bag, rescue and survival aid. It will be further appreciated that the straps 24 located on the second section 16 provide the necessary support to appropriate points (not shown) of the body of the injured person.

30

In Figure 5, two elongate members in the form of poles 30 are shown inserted through the loops 22 such that the poles 30 lie substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first section 14. The bag 10 can therefore be carried manually by simply lifting the poles 30.

In Figure 6, the underside of the bag 10 of Figure 5 is shown wherein the two poles 30 have been inserted between the second section 16 and the straps 24. Again, the bag 10 can be carried manually by lifting the poles 30. It will be appreciated that the poles 30 may also be inserted through one or more loops 22 to provide further support when carrying the bag 10. In relation to Figures 5 and 6, it will be clear that when the bag 10 is not being carried, the poles 30 may, for example, rest on any object (not shown) found in the surrounding terrain, to support the bag 10.

Referring now to Figure 7, the apparatus 10 is shown used as a hammock. The loops 22 located at the shorter ends of the first section 14, are mounted to a tree (not shown) or the like by means of a rope 34, to support the bag 10 used a hammock.

Referring now to Figure 8, the bag 10 is shown used as a tent. In this state, the bag 10 has been opened from the first state to form an inverted V-shape, preferably having the reverse sides 19, 21 facing each other as shown. A plurality of tent pegs 36 are inserted through the eyelets associated with the clips 20, in order to

secure the sheet 12 to the ground (not shown). The rope 34 is generally inserted through the loops 22 adjacent the fold line 18 to mount the tent to a tree or other support. In this manner, the bag 10 is easily constructed and adapted to form the tent shown in Figure 8. It will be appreciated that the tent pegs 36 may alternatively be inserted through the loops 22, for example, to secure the tent to the ground.

10 The apparatus 10 may also be used as a reflective surface, when the bag 10 is in the substantially planar state as shown in Figure 1. The brightly coloured, reflective surface provided by the obverse sides 15, 17 enables the bag 10 to be used as a hazard or distress signal.

It will be appreciated that the present invention is not limited to the embodiment and the uses thereof described herein. For example, loops (not shown) may be present around the periphery of the whole bag 10. It will be also be appreciated that the loops 22 present around the periphery of the second section may be replaced with one or more elongate sheaths (not shown) to receive a pole or the like, in use.

25 The straps 24 described herein are preferably made from nylon, however they may alternatively be made from any other suitable material. Similarly, the material of the obverse and reverse sides 15, 17, 19, 21 of the sheet 12 may be any suitable colour, and may be adapted to suit any particular environment.

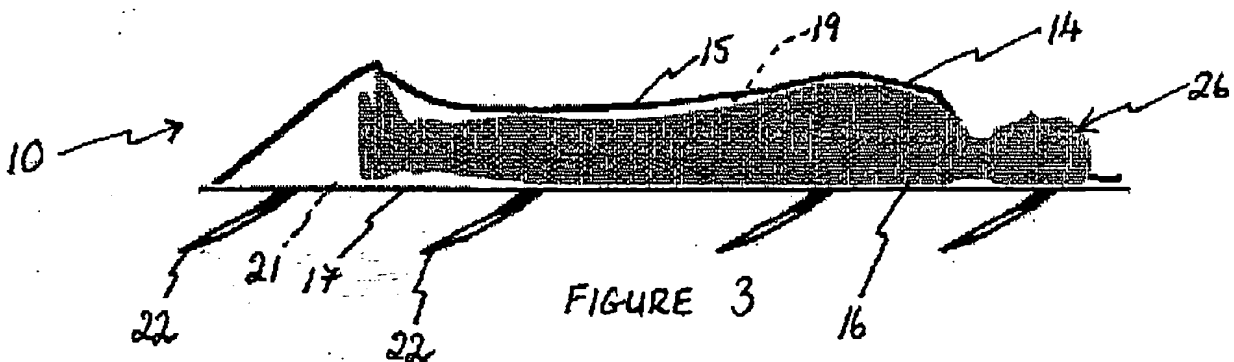
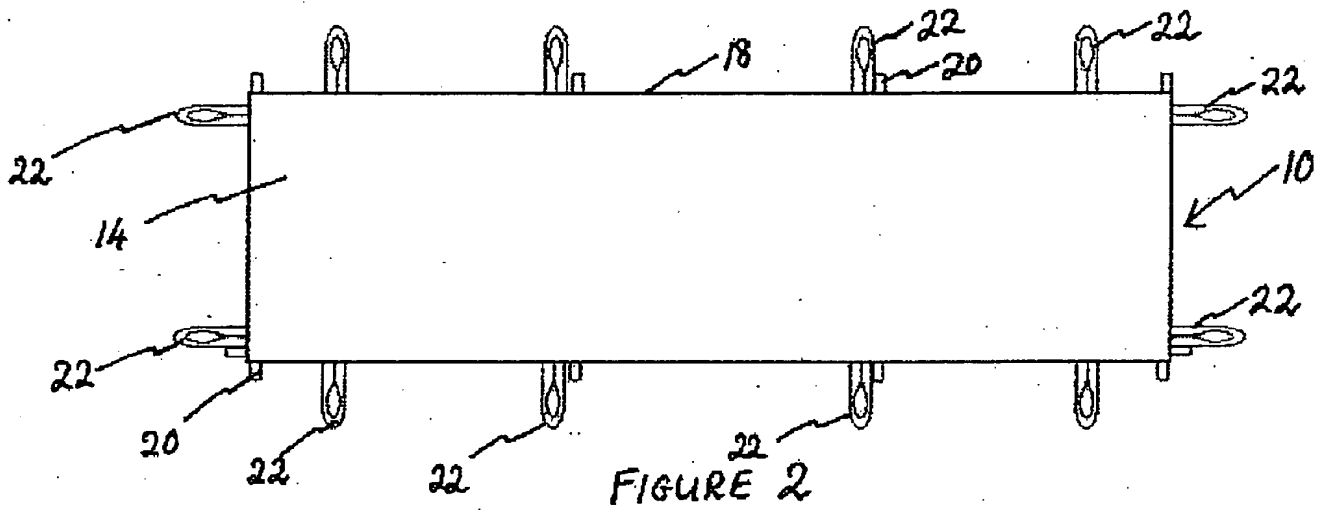
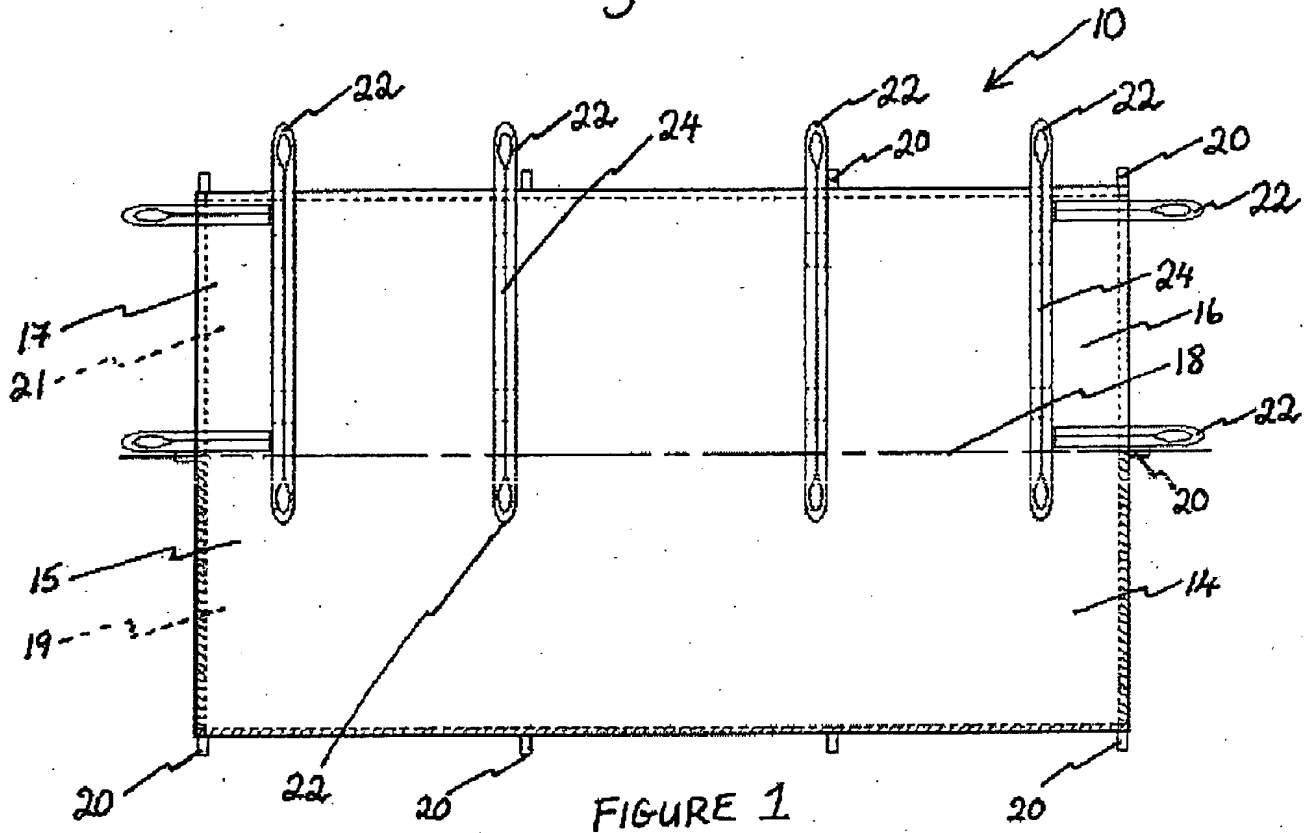
The multi-purpose apparatus 10 of the present invention provides a number of advantages, as described above.

The apparatus 10 is suitable for use as an integral
5 blanket, sleeping bag, stretcher, hammock, tent and
distress signal, without intending to limit the list of
uses thereto. The apparatus 10 is therefore capable of
protecting a user from harsh weather conditions, in
addition to providing alternative sleeping
10 arrangements, and providing use as a stretcher and/or
distress signal in emergencies.

The present invention is not limited to the embodiment
described herein which may be amended or modified
15 without departing from the scope of the present
invention.



1/3





2/3

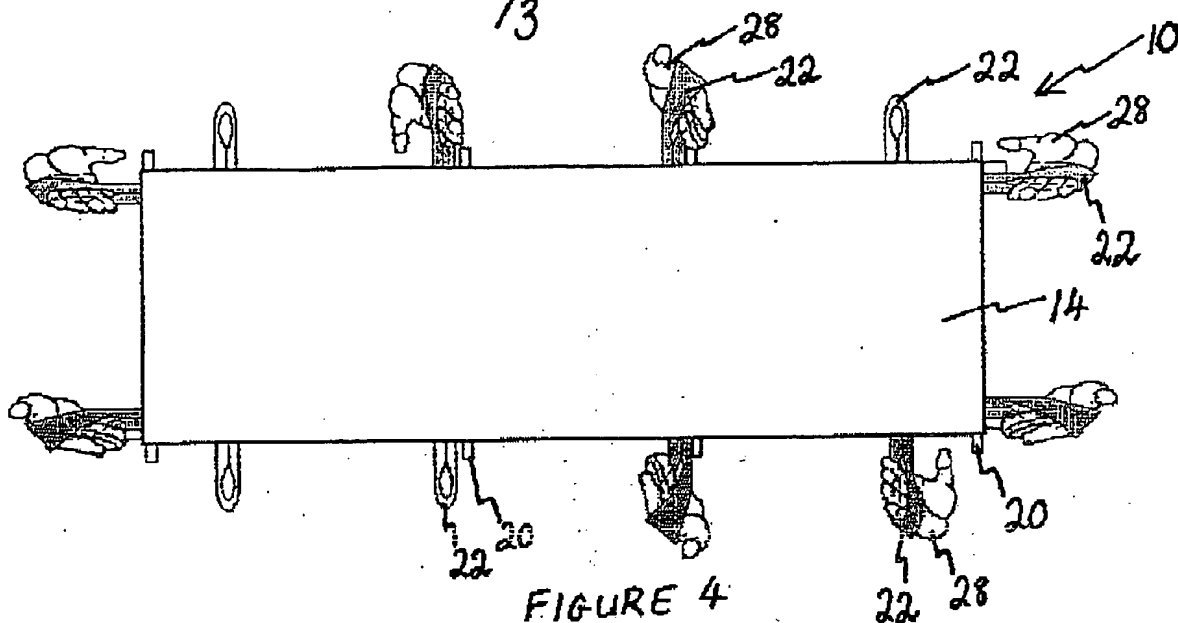


FIGURE 4

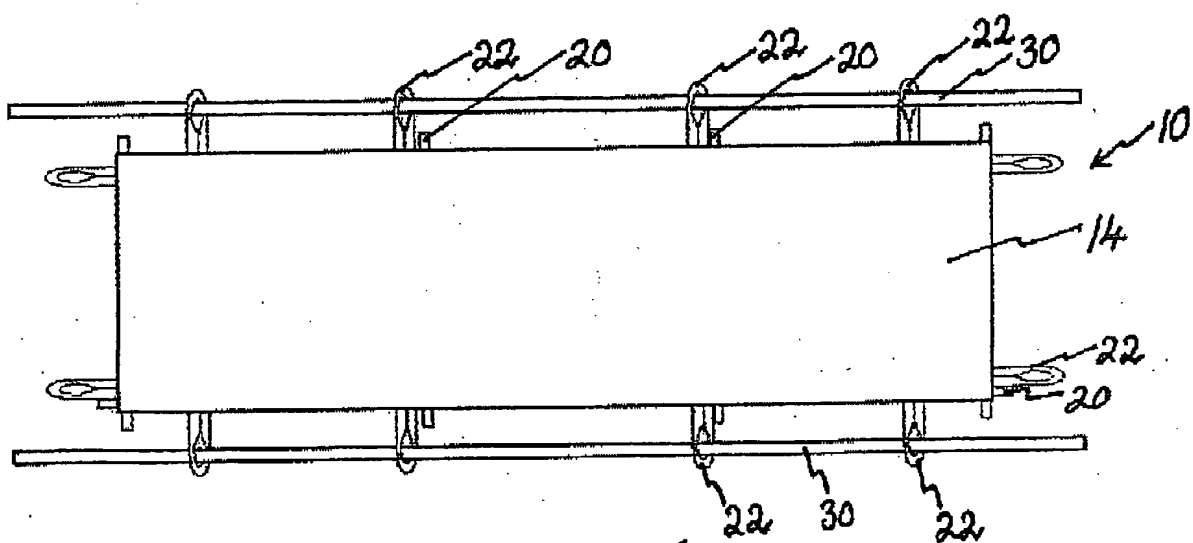


FIGURE 5

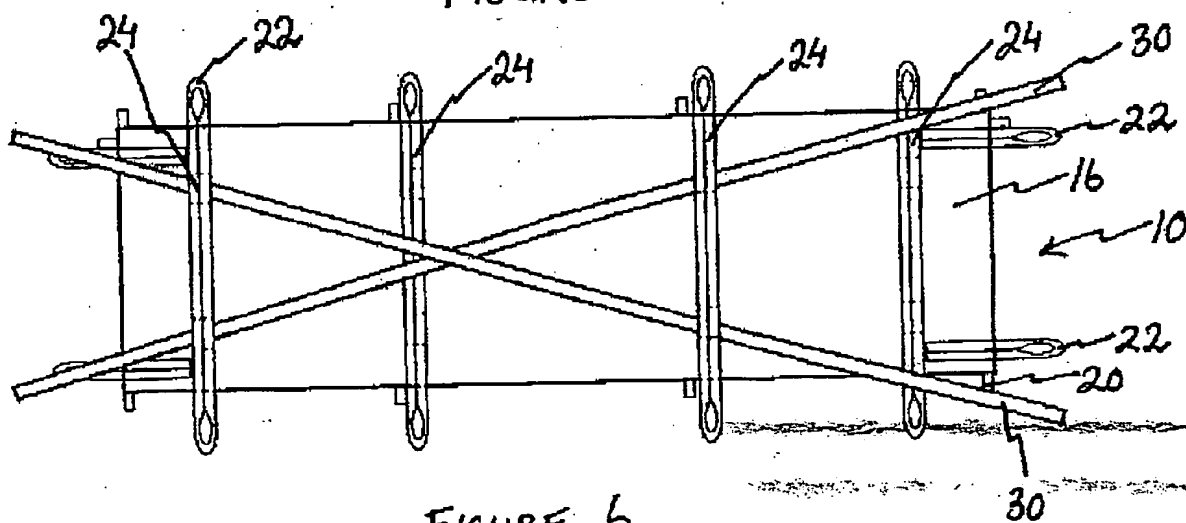


FIGURE 6



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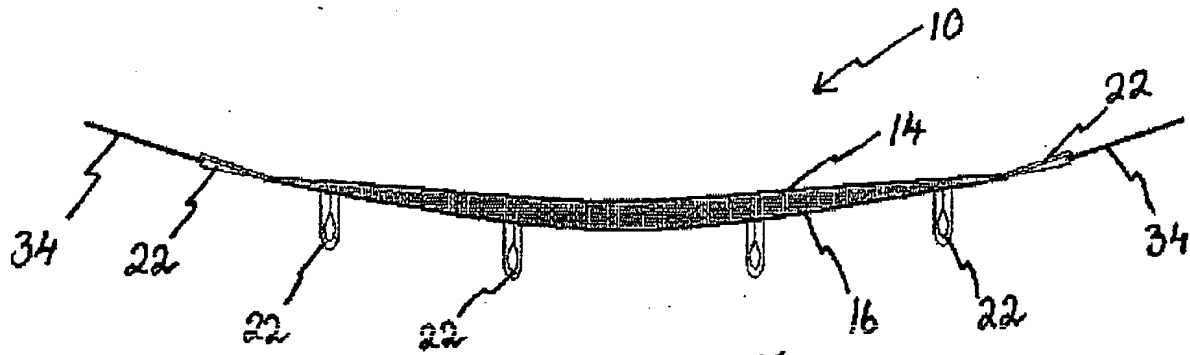


FIGURE 7

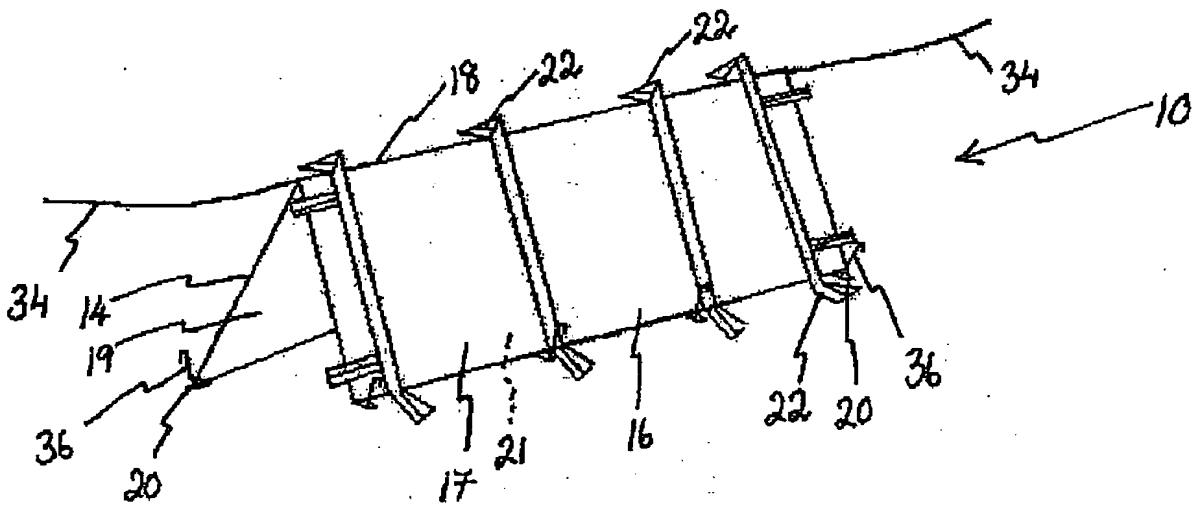


FIGURE 8



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